

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DMHSA Receives Opportunity to Strengthen Guam's
Behavioral Workforce

Hagåtña, Guam – The Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse (DMHSA) is participating in a Transformation Transfer Initiative (TTI) for Guam with the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD). DMHSA will receive \$221,000 of SAMHSA funding through this sub-contract agreement with NASMHPD to transform and strengthen Guam's mental health system of care.

DMHSA, in partnership with the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, will work towards developing and enhancing a culturally competent and sustainable behavioral health workforce on Guam. A cadre of trained trainers in mental health first aid, suicide prevention, trauma-informed care and self-directed care support will be established on Guam.

Behavioral health and primary health care professionals and para-professionals, peer specialists, recovery coaches, educators and other services providers will be invited to the first two trainings tentatively scheduled for the weeks of March 7th and 11th:

- Mental Health First Aid, a training that enhances community awareness on behavioral health issues, and teaches ways to provide immediate support to individuals in a behavioral health crisis until appropriate professional treatment is received or until the crisis resolves, and
- Suicide Prevention Toolkit for Rural Primary Care Providers, Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) and safeTALK, trainings that strengthen suicide prevention and early intervention skills that can be applied in the participant's respective field.

Other evidence-based TTI trainings for 2013 that support community integration and partnerships in prevention and recovery include self-directed care support strategies that actively engage consumers and stakeholders in behavioral healthcare decisions, and trauma-informed care.

Barbara S.N. Benavente, Prevention and Training branch supervisor and lead coordinator for TTI shares, "The Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse will continue to build local capacity in the field of behavioral health; an improved system of care that empowers and supports consumers and their families in strengths-based, culturally competent services."

For more information on the Transformation Transfer Initiative and to register to receive training, contact the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Prevention and Training branch at (671) 477-9079 through 9083 or visit www.peaceguam.org.

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